

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A system for creating and maintaining an electronic item list for items residing on the Internet comprising:

at least one database holding information with respect to items, the information being at least one of an offer type, a general product type, a specific manufacturer type and a specific merchant type;

an item list database operable to store references to the items stored in the at least one database; and

an interface component operable to receive a request for items in an item list, access the item list database for the references to the items, extract data corresponding to the at least one database employing the references and return the requested item list.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the interface component is operable to join items from the at least one database and degrade the joined items as records are removed from any of the at least one database.

3. The system of claim 1, further comprising a custom input component operable to allow a user to add a custom element to the item list, the custom element not residing in any of the at least one database.

4. The system of claim 3, further comprising a user interface component coupleable to the custom input component, the user interface component adapted for receiving data relating to a custom element from a user, the data comprising at least one of structured and unstructured data.

5. The system of claim 1, further comprising a remote input component operable to allow a user to add an item to the item list having a description residing on a remote merchant's site, the remote merchant site employing a link to the remote input component for invoking the remote input component.

6. The system of claim 5, the remote input component being operable to add the description of the item to the item list, the description having one of structured and unstructured data.

7. The system of claim 5, the description having a link to information with respect to an item in the at least one database and the remote input component being operable to add the information with respect to the item to the item list.

8. The system of claim 1, the system being adapted to link the infrastructure of the item list system to a remote site wherein the item list system appears to reside on the remote site.

9. The system of claim 1, the interface component comprising a plurality of ASP pages.

10. The system of claim 1, further comprising at least one HTML page operable to allow a user to select items from an electronic web-site to add to the item list and at least one element providing a link from a selected item to the interface component, the interface component being further operable to add the selected item to the item list.

11. The system of claim 1, further comprising a gift finder component having a link associated with the item list, the gift finder component being operable to access a user attribute database to retrieve attributes related to an owner of at least one item list, the gift

17. The system of claim 14, further comprising a remote input component operable to allow a user to add an item to the item list having a description residing on a remote merchant's site, the remote merchant site employing a link to the remote input component for invoking the remote input component.

19. The system of claim 17, the description having a link to information with respect to an item in the at least one database and the remote input component being operable to add the information with respect to the item to the item list.

at least one database holding information with respect to items; and

21. The system of claim 20, the interface component being operable to access and return only items related to the remote site.

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return only items related to the remote site based on an ID associated with the items.

23. The system of claim 21, the interface component being operable to access and return only items related to the remote site by accessing and returning items on a separate list associated with items relating to the remote site.

24. A system for creating and maintaining an electronic item list for items residing on the Internet comprising:

at least one database holding information with respect to items,
an interface component operable to receive a request for items in an item list, access the items from the at least one database and return the requested item list; and
a gift finder component operable to access a user attribute database to retrieve attributes related to an owner of the item list, the gift finder component employing the retrieved attributes to extract data from the at least one database and return at least one item of interest based on the retrieved attributes.

25. The system of claim 24, the item list having a link associated with the gift finder component for invoking the gift finder component from the item list.

26. A method for providing an electronic item list for items residing on the Internet comprising the steps of:

providing at least one database holding information with respect to items, the information being at least one of an offer type, a general product type, a specific manufacturer type and a specific merchant type;

providing an item list database operable to store references to the items stored in the at least one database;

receiving a request from a requestor for items in an item list;

accessing the item list database for the references to the items;

extracting data corresponding to the at least one database employing the references;

returning the requested item list to the requestor.

28. The method of claim 26, further comprising a step of joining structured and unstructured data.

30. The method of claim 26, further comprising a step of providing a link and a product description at a remote merchant site for allowing a user to add items from a remote site to the item list database.

32. The method of claim 26, further comprising a step of providing links from a selectable items on at least one HTML page, the links being operable to allow a user to select items from an electronic web-site to add to the item list.

34. A method for providing an electronic item list for items residing on the Internet comprising the steps of:

providing at least one database holding information with respect to items, the information being at least one of an offer type, a general product type, a specific manufacturer type and a specific merchant type;

providing a user attribute database operable to store attributes with respect to an owner of the item list;

receiving a request from a requestor for possible gift items;

accessing the user attribute database for the attributes of the owner of the item list;

extracting data corresponding to the at least one database employing the attributes;

and

returning the requested possible gift items to the requestor.

35. A system for creating and maintaining an electronic item list for items residing on the Internet comprising:

at least one database holding information with respect to items, the information being at least one of an offer type, a general product type, a specific manufacturer type and a specific merchant type;

an item list database operable to store references to the items stored in the at least one database; and

means for extracting data corresponding to the at least one database employing the stored references.

36. The system of claim 35, further comprising means for joining the extracted data and means for degrading the extracted data as records are removed from any of the at least one database.

37. The system of claim 35, further comprising means for providing custom input elements to the item list.

38. The system of claim 35, further comprising means for allowing a user to add

an item residing on a remote merchant's site to the item list.

39. The system of claim 35, further comprising means for linking the infrastructure of the item list system to a remote site wherein the item list system appears to reside on the remote site.

40. The system of claim 35, further comprising means for providing gift suggestions to a receiver of an item list employing attributes residing in a user attribute database and extracting data from the at least one database based on the attributes.

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